



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL COMMAND  
2050 WORTH ROAD  
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MCDS

17 June 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR All U.S. Army Dental Command Personnel

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Dental Command (DENCOM) Policy 03-25,  
Supervision of Registered Dental Hygienists

1. Scope: This policy applies to all DENCOM activities.

2. Policy:

a. Registered dental hygienists are authorized to treat patients under the guidance of a dentist who normally is physically present in the dental treatment facility (DTF) during the treatment.

b. If a dentist cannot be physically present, registered hygienists may still treat patients if:

(1) The current commander's approval for the hygienist to treat patients without the presence of a dentist is documented in the hygienist's Provider Activity File.

(2) Only active duty personnel are treated when a dentist is not present.

(3) Hygienists perform only procedures that are prescribed by a current treatment plan.

(4) Hygienists do not administer local anesthetic.

(5) The DTF has a specific plan to address management of dental and/or medical emergencies during periods when patients are treated without the presence of a dentist.

(6) A dentist is identified as a point of contact to assist the hygienist in addressing non-urgent concerns related to a patient's treatment. The point of contact must be available telephonically.

(7) A follow-up appointment with a dentist is scheduled whenever the hygienist suspects undiagnosed pathology.

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c. If a DTF will be without a dentist for more than five consecutive days, the commander should give strong consideration to temporarily assigning the hygienist to work at another DTF where a dentist is present.

SIDNEY A. BROOKS  
Colonel, DC  
Commanding